

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : [REDACTED] STATINTL

DATE: 12 September 1973

FROM : [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: General Content Prospectus for Atlas of Soviet Agriculture

1. The attached prospectus lays out the possible scope of contents for an atlas of Soviet agriculture. Section IV will have to be developed further, and I can already think of some more additions to the other general sections. Even so, it could be handled in 15-20 double page spreads, which seems to me a manageable product. It may have to be adjusted to be somewhat more issue-oriented or crop-yield oriented.

2. The question of content is related to the publication date and the purpose of the atlas. With respect to publication date, I believe it is very important to get it out as fast as possible, and certainly no later than May 1974. To use the elegant language of our [REDACTED] colleagues, 25X1A failure to do so may put us behind the interest curve.

3. On the key issue of purpose, as you will recall from our discussion with OER, there are at least two, and I would add, diverging, purposes to be served in producing graphic materials relating to Soviet agriculture at this time. There is a limit to which we can serve both purposes with one publication. The more we attempt to do so, the more the size of the Atlas will expand, and the farther the publication date will move back. 25X1A

4. First, there is the need of the specialist (the OER or [REDACTED] analyst) for material that is the most up-to-date, detailed and best available in large-scale map or diagram form as a reference tool to serve in the analysis of incoming data, preferably with a format that permits annotation of new data. This need would best be served by a "Research Aid Series on Soviet Agriculture" produced on a scale and format somewhat larger than our recent atlas publications and produced on a sheet-by-sheet publication basis. This series could consist essentially of maps and data of interest to the specialist with little or no interpretive text. Great quantities of recent, excellent, detailed Russian-language material suitable for this purpose has yet to work its way into English-language publications. For example, [REDACTED] has already produced 15 crop calendars for individual oblasts from the data in Agroclimatic handbooks and other similar publications, and these may be suitable with very little change for publication in such a research-aid series.

5. The other purpose is to meet the need for a general exposition that will enhance the understanding of issues related to Soviet agriculture among the public and those government and business officials who will be having more contacts with the USSR. The attached content prospectus is designed to serve this purpose. It is intended to be published in a format as the Middle East Issues Atlas.

